

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4179

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, RP, TW

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS

REF: (A) STATE 125886

(B) TAIPEI 2519

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES SEMINAR WOULD BE MOST TIMELY AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS PROPOSAL. AS MATTER OF FACT, GROUND-WORK RECENTLY LAID IN THIS FIELD HERE WOULD HEIGHTEN INTEREST IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO EXPECTED SUCCESS ANY SUCH UNDERTAKING.

2. EMBASSY REFERS TO FOLLOWING OCCURRENCES: 1) AAFLI-SPONSORED SEMINARS ON HEALTH AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY HELD SUMMERS 1974 AND 1975 FOR MIDDLE LEVEL TRADE UNION OFFICERS; 2) FIRST ASIAN REGIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 1975, MANILA, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY 4 U.S. UNIONS AND KEYNOTED BY LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE (SEE MANILA 1858 AND A-62); 3) MAY 9 STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OPLE STRESSING NEED FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS RELATED TO MANDATORY OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS UNDER NEW LABOR CODE; AND 4) PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 22 REQUESTING SUPPORT TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF FIRST WORLD SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION CONGRESS, TO BE HELD IN MANILA, NOVEMBER 16 - 21, 1975.

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3. CURRENT EMPHASIS HERE IS ON TRIPARTITE COOPERATION TO ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION NEW LABOR CODE (INCLUDING OCCUPA-

TIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS). THUS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS
TRIPARTITE PARTICIPATION AND SPONSORSHIP BE CONSIDERED
(I.E. PHILIPPINE, DOL, PLUS RECENTLY FORMED "UNIFIED"
LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS, PLCC -- PHILIPPINE
LABOR COORDINATING CENTER -- AND EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATION).
INITIAL SOUNDINGS ON PROPOSED SEMINAR FAVORABLE. LABOR
UNDERSECRETARY AMADO INCIONG TOLD LABATT JUNE 4 GOP WOULD
"WELCOME AND APPRECIATE" SEMINAR. AAFLI, WHICH HAD PLANNED
YET ANOTHER HEALTH AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY SEMINAR FOR
LATER THIS YEAR, HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS CANCEL IT AND
INSTEAD CONTRIBUTE EARMARKED FUNDS TO PLCC TO BE USED FOR
HELPING DEFRAY COSTS OF TRADE UNION PARTICIPANTS IN PROPOSED
SEMINAR. IN CONNECTION 1975 SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION YEAR,
PRESIDENT HAS DESIGNATED MONTH OF OCTOBER FOR CONSIDERATION
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ASPECTS. THIS MIGHT THEREFORE BE APPROPRIATE
MONTH FOR SEMINAR.

4. WITH RESPECT PROPOSED VISIT TO MANILA BY DSP STAFFERS
IN EARLY JULY, STRONGLY URGE POSTPONEMENT UNTIL LATE
JULY. THIS WOULD ALLOW FOR RETURN OF LABOR SECRETARY
BLAS OPLE AND PRINCIPALS FROM BOTH PLCC AND EMPLOYERS'
CONFEDERATION, MANY OF WHOM PLAN STOP OFF IN U.S. FOR
COUPLE WEEKS ON WAY BACK FROM ILO CONFERENCE GENEVA.
USIS CONCURS WITH ABOVE.

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